MODERN TIMES

20¢

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Vol. IV, No. 1 New Haven May 1–14, 1973

What's Inside

Dave Spinner

Painting can be fun, especially if it's on your own time. That atmosphere is provided for children every Wed. afternoon at the Edward's St. School. Children can participate in various activities designed to increase their skills as well as entertainment. Story on page 7.

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New Haven's Property Tax Scandal Worsens

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

There is a tax scandal brewing in New Haven as the Board of Aldermen takes up the new city budget for 1972-1973 proposed by Mayor Guida. The scandal lies in the fact that New Haven owners of property (cars, homes, land etc.) could pay tax rates (the "Mill Rates" everyone is talking about) much, much lower than the current rate of 8.43% of the property value (84.3 Mills) and much lower than the tiny reduction of 3.1 Mills proposed by the Mayor. Here is the evidence to prove it is possible to get greatly reduced property tax rates.

First of all, New Haven's tax rate is the highest in Connecticut among large or medium-sized towns. In fact, only two very small towns (Andover and Scotland) out of Connecticut's total of 169 had higher rates in 1972 than New Haven.

Mayor Guida proposes to cut the rates by cutting back on the already too-small services provided by the city. More courageously, the Ralph Nader-connected Connecticut Citizens Action Group (CCAG) recently revealed facts and figures showing that many high-priced properties are assessed for tax purposes at values far below the 60% assessment rate called for by law. The CCAG has called for correcting the assessments of the "under-assessed" properties as a way to raise the tax base and therefore the tax revenues of New Haven.

While the CCAG proposal is a very good contribution to reforming the tax situation in New Haven, there is an even more sweeping, more effective way to improve the tax picture of our city.

All assessments need to be adjusted. The last time New Haven took a survey of the value of all property in the city was 1964. Most city residents are paying taxes on the assessed value of the property as assigned to them by New Haven's Tax Assessor in 1964. We all know how property values—like all other prices—have changed since 1964. We all know how certain wealthy neighborhoods in New Haven have seen their property values skyrocket, while middle-income and poor neighborhoods have risen far less or stayed pretty much the same or perhaps even fallen.

Wealthy Get Tax Break

By sticking to the 1964 assessments,

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How The Register's Monopoly Grew

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

New Haven wasn't always a one newspaper town—in 1925 there were four dailies in New Haven plus two weekly Italian-language publications. In 1887 there were six dailies, one in German, plus two weekly German papers. Back then Fair Haven had its own weekly publication, the **Shore Line Times**, as well. But everyone knows that "the Jackson family" has owned New Haven's only two daily newspapers, the **Register** and the **Journal-Courier** for almost 50 years. How did it happen? The story goes back to the eighteenth century and the colony's earliest newspapers.

The New Haven **Journal-Courier** traces its history back to the time of the French and Indian War in 1753. At that time, because people were anxious for war news, Connecticut's first newspaper, the **Connecticut Gazette** was founded in New Haven.

It folded and was succeeded by the **Connecticut Journal and New Haven Post Boy**—ancestor of the **Journal-Courier**—in the next decade. In 1835 two well-to-do publishers who owned another New Haven paper, the **Daily Herald**, bought the **Morning Courier** as it was then named. It was attached to their daily in 1846 and was known as the **Journal and Courier.**

Soon after the ownership of the paper shifted from a two-man partnership to a joint-stock company. The stockholders included one of the former partners, John B. Carrington, and several other prominent—and powerful—citizens of Connecticut. Among them were a former congressman, a former lieutenant-governor, a former Connecticut secretary of state, and a director of the New Haven Railroad.

With such owners it is no surprise that the newspaper had "difficulties" with its workers. The Pressmen's Union is not the first workers' group to run into trouble with a New Haven newspaper. In 1871 there was a movement by printers to set up an organization for promoting the interests of working men. The typesetters at the **Journal-Courier** went on strike. A New York printer, Alexander Troup, came up to address public meetings of New Haven working men on the rights of labor. Together with two other men he started a newspaper, the **Saturday Evening Union,** which backed the National Labor Party. In 1873 it became the **Daily Union** with a circulation ranging from two to 12 thousand. The **Union** eventually became identified with the political interests of the Democratic Party.

Journal-Courier Always Conservative

The **Journal-Courier** had always had a conservative reputation. It was known first as a Whig paper—representing "the party of the aristocrats" back in the 1820's. By the end of the century it had become identified with the Republican Party. Its ownership changed again in the mid-1870's as John B. Carrington bought out the other stockholders and made it a family business. His other business interests were wide-ranging —an early investor in the new iron

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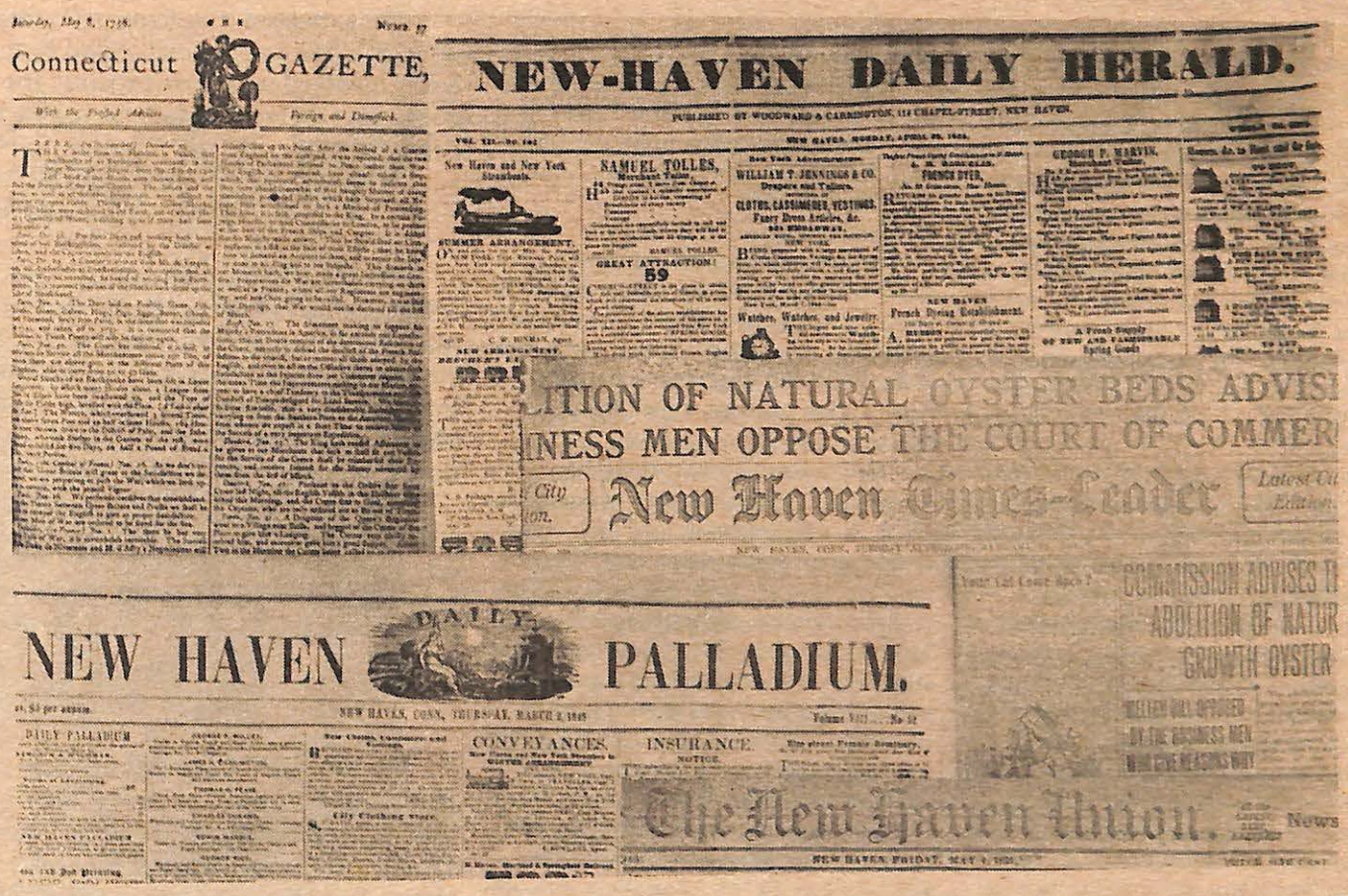

Laurie Nussdorfer and Nick Heyer

The history of New Haven's newspapers goes back to 1753 with its first, The Connecticut Gazette. Others that followed were The New Haven Daily Herald, New Haven Times-Leader, New Haven Union and the New Haven Palladium.

Danny Cahn

This building on the corner of Whitney and Grove Streets is one of the sites that Yale Univ. wants to build a college on. Board has said "no-no".

Eye On The Board

Angry Yale Slashes At City Revenues

by Modern Times Staff

Angered by two defeats at the hands of the Board of Aldermen, Yale University seems to have changed its tune from asking the Board to approve its plans to build two new colleges to threatening the Board. The threat came in mid-April, when Yale officials leaked word to the press that they were considering the use of either the old Taft Hotel or the Whalley Avenue Holiday Inn instead of building the two new colleges as originally planned.

Yale clearly intended the release of this information to be a threat to the Board of Aldermen. Because if Yale did purchase either building, it would mean that still another expensive, downtown New Haven property would no longer be paying taxes. Since Yale properties are tax-exempt under existing state law, the tax revenues lost if Yale purchased any private property would have to be raised instead from the rest of New Haven's tax-payers. And that is the threat.

Yale's representatives at the last Board of Aldermen meeting were shocked and furious that the Board would dare to continue to deny Yale the right to build the new colleges. The Board turned down the proposal because Yale would not agree to pay the $500,000 demanded by the Board to cover delivery of city services to the new colleges (fire, street cleaning, etc.). At the time *Modern Times* goes to press, Yale University has decided to hit back at New Haven by not only refusing to pay for services to the new colleges but also to reduce further the tax revenues New Haven now collects.

As one Yale official said recently, "The next move is for the city; we are confident." So the question is how the Board will react to Yale's maneuvers ; well as to Yales tone of voice.

Hot Issues Debated At Meeting In Annex

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

The Woodward Avenue Annex Club was the scene of a free-wheeling discussion of current issues before the State Legislature between voters and elected officials of the 11th District.

The April 11 meeting was initiated by State Senator Anthony Ciarlone in an effort to "take the pulse" of his constituency. Invited were elected democrats from the district, including aldermen and state representatives. Aldermen Edward Piazza (15th ward), Louis Aceto (6th ward) and Michael Natalino (14th ward) attended the session. There were no state representatives present.

This was the second meeting hosted by Sen. Ciarlone and was attended by more than 65 people. Of particular interest were opinions on three issues before the legislature. These are, the bill which would eliminate the "Blue Law" provision that prohibits stores from selling on Sunday, the bill which would bring back capitol punishment and the one which would allow the advertising of prescription drugs by retailers.

Sunday Selling

Those who spoke in favor of allowing Sunday selling made the point that those concerned, and not the government, should have the power to regulate the times when a person can do business.

Many of those who were opposed to the proposed legislation were concerned that an unrestricted selling time would put the squeeze on the small businessman who would have to stay open to compete with *big merchants, but who do not have a large* enough number of employees to do it. Another fear was that Sunday hours would not mean more jobs but only longer hours for present employees who would have to work the new shifts.

The issue of Capital Punishment brought the most impassioned speech of the evening from Attorney Thayer Baldwin speaking strongly against reinstituting the death penalty, Baldwin recited some of the past history of execution in New Haven itself and the history of capital punishment elsewhere.

No Capital Punishment

He was rebutted by Alphonse Esposito of Russell Street who spoke in favor of capital punishment for certain crimes , including hijacking. A majority of those who *spoke were against capital punishment* under any circumstances.

Most were in favor of drastic revisions in the penal system as the means to begin solving the problems of society and of people convicted of serious crimes. Sen. Ciarlone

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Africans Plan Demonstration

Patti Miller

Clifton Bush,right, and Robert Wright prepare for New Haven's African Liberation Day.

The Connecticut African Liberation Support Committee will attempt to mobilize all sectors of the Black community to participate in this year's African Liberation Day demonstration which will take place on May 26th in New Haven.

The African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) is an international coalition of Black social protest, educational, religious and political activists who support the struggles for liberation being waged by African freedom fighters against the European white minority-controlled regimes in Anzania (South Africa), Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Mozambique, Angola, Namibia (South-west Africa), Guinea-Bissau and other European, white minority-controlled countries.

The purposes of the ALSC are to protest United States involvement in Southern Africa and U.S. support to the vicious, racist states of Portugal and South Africa; and to demand political and economic self-determination for the African peoples in these areas; to publicize their struggles; to show the world the concern of Blacks in America for their African brothers' and sisters' freedom, and to protest oppression and genocide in Southern Africa by the white minority ruling regimes there.

Last year more than 65,000 people came together in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Toronto, and the Carribean area to demonstrate their contempt and dissatisfaction over American and European continued exploitation and domination of brothers and sisters in Southern Africa.

MAY 26, 1973

Thousands of Black people will join together in New Haven , United States , and the Western Hemisphere in demonstrations for African Liberation Day, Saturday, May 26, 1973.

The Committee's goal this year is to plan demonstrations that will awaken the Black community to the fact that a war is going on in Southern Africa. They hope to simultaneously appeal to people and raise at least $50,000 through the United African Appeal to support the Liberation Movements in Southern Africa.

The Committee hopes to begin to build a mass-based liberation support committee made up oforganizations and individuals dedicated to the liberation of African people. They urge all Black people across the Western Hemisphere to join together on Saturday, May 26, 1973 for African Liberation Day. They are making a special appeal to high school and college students to join with local African Liberation Committees in organizing these massive demonstrations. They also appeal to labor organizations, churches, community organizations, and any other Black groups who share concern for the Liberation of Southern Africa to join on African Liberation Day.

Community Notes

APPEAL TURNED DOWN

On Feb. 26, 1973, the Supreme Court upheld a lower court's finding that Connecticut's anti-abortion law is unconstitutional.

The state of Connecticut appealed this decision, and asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its position.

On Monday, April 16, 1973, the Supreme court turned down that appeal.

"We expected it to happen," stated Judy Robeson of Women vs. Connecticut. "We are especially glad that it happened now." The group is presently involved with a suit against the Welfare Department, over the right of women on welfare to have access to safe legal abortions. The suit was being held up until the supreme court decision was handed down.

STARVING ARTISTS

Theatre groups, painters, dancers, musicians, poets, playwrights, poster artists, calligraphers, potters, jewelry designers and makers, woodworkers, mimes, photographers, film-makers, ballet artists, folksingers, jazz soloists, ensembles, classical guitarists, sculptors, engravers, graphic artists, artists in ink, pastel, leather, fabric, paint, silkscreen, etching, lithography, glass, plastic, ceramics, weaving, design, tapestry, belt buckles, cabinet-making, opera, puppetry, musical compositon, drama. . . .

The newly created Arts Coordinator of New Haven wants the names of artists looking for exposure and professional outlets. In addition to our own programs, the list of artists will be used for referral, to any organization in need of a performance or art show or arts teacher. No rock bands. No hobbyists. If you wish to pursue your art or have a need for an artist, call John at the Arts Council, 865-3480.

FREE PERSONAL COUNSELLING

The Women's Liberation Center of New Haven offers free personal counselling for women at the Women's Center, 215 Park Street, New Haven, every Monday, 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday 10 a. m. to noon. Counseling is also available at other times by appointment. For an appointment call 436-0272.

Revaluation Can Save Taxpayers $$

continued from page 1

the city is really giving a huge tax break to those residents whose wealth in property has grown the most since then. They continue to get away with paying taxes far below what they would have to pay if their property was assessed at its true present-day value.

For the middle income and poorer New Haveners—the vast majority of us—while our property values may have risen only slightly or not at all or fallen, we still have to pay the 1964-assessed values. And what is more, because the city did not up-date the values of the richer property owners over the years, everybody's Mill Rate had to be raised year after year.

To sum it all up, since 1964 the small number of New Haveners whose property values rose the most got a tax break, while the majority had to pay extra to make up for the taxes not collected from the rich minority.

Property Needs Revaluing

Something can be done about this. It has been done successfully in some other towns around New Haven in the last couple of years. The something is a "revaluation" of all taxable property in New Haven, bringing values up to their proper 1973 levels.

We can get a good idea of what can be accomplished by a revaluation if we look at the results in three area towns who revalued their properties in 1971. The three are North Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge. Because of their revaluations, these three towns achieved the following reductions in Mill Rates between 1971 and 1972: North Haven went from 49.7 to 35.8, a cut of 13.9 Mills; Westbrook went from 33.0 to 23.0, a cut of 10 Mills; and Woodbridge went from 63.0 to 44.0, a cut of 19 Mills.

Compare this to Mayor Guida's proposal to maybe cut New Haven's rate by 3.1 mills.

The law requires that Connecticut towns revalue their property lists (the Grand List) at least every 10 years. Harry Cohen, New Haven's official Tax Assessor, says he would prefer it every five years. But Assessor Cohen has recently had some bad news, which is also bad news for middle and lower income New Haveners. Mayor Guida has apparently refused to provide money to cover the cost of revaluing New Haven property during 1973-1974.

This act of the Mayor, if not challenged and reversed by the Board of Aldermen, simply means that the Mayor chooses to lower taxes a very little (by further cutting city services) rather than a great deal (by taxing those New Haveners whose property values have risen most). And that is scandalous.

Sirabella Is Re-elected To Eighth Term

Vincent J. Sirabella, President of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council was reelected to his eighth consecutive term Monday night. He was unopposed.

In the only contested post among the officers and board members for the office of Secretary-Treasurer, Spencer R. Johnson American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, Local 681 defeated Irma Carbone, Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local 376, 9,257 to 1,750.

Sirabella was first elected president in 1960. Last spring he announced he would not be a candidate for reelection. However, he was prevailed upon by leaders of the Council's affiliated unions to run again.

Important Job to Do

Sirabella told the Council delegates, "It was my view that it was time for someone else to assume these responsibilities. I have aceeded to the requests of the leaders of the Council to serve again because we have an important job to do.

That job is to reorganize our unions into united action whether in support of one another in collective bargaining, on picket lines or in organizing drives, on the legislative front and most particularly in the area of political action.

"In recent years the area labor movement has been for the most part disunited and fragmented. It has lacked cohesion and coordination. This lack of unity has diluted our effectiveness and permitted both employers and politicians to further divide and weaken us. This unhealthy condition must stop.

Unity and Solidarity

"My principal efforts over the next two years will be devoted to recreating the unity and solidarity we must have in order to effectively pursue labor's goals."

Sirabella is business manager, Federation of University Employees, Local 35, president, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 217, and a vice president of the Connecticut State Labor Council.

He is also chairman of the board of directors of the Community Health Care Center Plan, Inc., a director of the United Way and a member of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration.

Vincent Sirabella

Other Officers

Other Council officers reelected were: first vice president, Justin F. Manning, international representative, Office and Professional Employees Union; second vice president, Michael Rao, president, International Association of Machinists, Lodge 609; recording secretary, Dante J. Bartolini, Insurance Workers, Local 90.

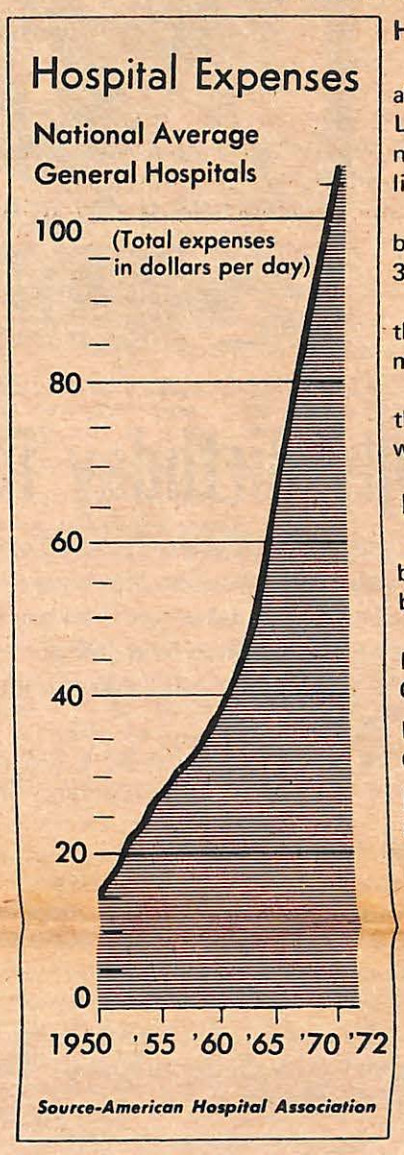
Trustees, Nicholas Aiello, business manager Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Local 125; Sheppard Brock, Rubber Workers, Local 93; Charles Greenberg, president, Retail, Wholesale Department Store Union, Local 282; Ronald O'Brien, president, New Haven Federation of Teachers, Local 933, and John W. Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 217.

Executive Board

The following executive board members were also elected: Frank Annunziato, business agent, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Local 217; Ann DeCaprio, International Ladies Garment Workers, Local 151; Clinton F. Fortune, president, Rubber Workers, Local 93; Mary Macey, International Typographical Union, Local 47; Morty F. Miller, chief steward, International Association of Machinists, Lodge 1396.

Also, Domenick Panagrossi, business manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 90; Thomas Pechinsky, chief steward, Federation of University Employees, Local 35; Frank Perrelli, business agent, Painters Local 186; Frank Rak, president, Printing Pressmen, Local 74; and Theodore J. Turek, recording secretary, International Association of Machinists, Lodge 609.

Labor Notes



Data place the average daily charge for a hospital bed last year at a record of $105.30, almost double the cost of six years years ago. The chart above shows the rising cost of hospital expenses during the past 12 years.

Meat price increases still have a long way to go to catch up with the scandal in medical and hospital costs — as this table shows.

HARRIS POLL ON TAXES

A nation-wide poll of Americans' feelings about taxes — conducted this April by the Louis Harris Organization — came up with some noteworthy results, which were released to the public on April 12, 1973.

—The thought that "my standard of living has been hurt by high taxes" was agreed to by 62 to 32%.

—"The tax system is set up to let the rich get the real breaks" won approval by a 80 to 13% margin.

—"There are a lot of loopholes for the rich in the tax laws" won the biggest score of approval with 89% agreeing.

HIGHEST SALARIES

As a service to *Modern Times* readers, we list below the just-announced 1972 salaries (including bonuses) of "our leading corporate executives:"

Richard C. Gerstenberg, Chairman of General Motors	$874,963.
Henry Ford 2d Chairman of Ford Motor Co.	$874,567.
Harold S. Geneen Chairman of ITT	$813,311.
Edward N. Cole Number 2 man at GM	$789,974.
Lee A. Iacocca Number 2 man at Ford	$861,290.
Lynn Townsend Chairman of Chrysler Corp.	$638,600.

And by the way, Mr. Ford's earnings went up 25% from 1971 and Mr. Iacocca's rose 28% from 1971. Fortunately, their salaries rose way above the legal 5.5% maximum set down by President Nixon? Do you think anything will be done about it? Not likely! That's just so much water under the gate.

AVCO WORKERS ON STRIKE

1900 production workers at AVCO, members of Local 1010, UAW, have been on strike since their contract expired on April 16. Negotiations broke down the night before and have not yet resumed, despite the efforts of federal mediators.

Also at AVCO and on strike since their contract on Monday, April 23rd are 200 office and professional workers, Local 376, UAW. They had been locked out since Wednesday, April 18.

Sacks Rents Condemned Building

Danny Cahn

Slum-lord Morris Sacks has struck again. This time at 251 Dixwell Ave. This apartment house has been condemned by the city as of April 12th., it is unfit for human occupation. Over the years, Sacks has had many such places—all with the same ills. There are exposed water pipes and electrical wires, no heat or water at times-rats and always the danger of lead poisoning. What is more astounding is the fact that these people are paying between $170 and$190 a month for rent. Mr. Sacks must be stopped from hurting people. Now!

Editorial Lower Prices, Expand Farms

Beyond the justified anger of people over outrageously high meat prices, there is a need to propose some solutions. What can we do to bring meat prices down and do it soon?

First of all, we need a real price control. President Nixon only put a lid on the retail butcher and meat store. What is needed is to *lower,* not merely limit meat prices. Meat prices at the farm, for the meat-packer and finally for the wholesale and retail markets need to be brought down by government action all along the line.

But the busy press agents of the meat companies have been filling our ears with stories of shortages of meat. They also cry about grain shortages which lead to higher grain prices which lead to higher feed costs for meat farmers which lead to higher meat costs. It's a nice story to try to get sympathy. But it won't work.

There is no excuse for grain shortages of they exist. Either the farmers did not plan properly to increase grain output, or the government failed to plan properly to increase grain output—or both. Whoever made the errors, there is no justification in allowing them to worsen the situation they cuased by charging us higher meat prices.

The solution we propose is to have the government start and operate farms to produce grain and if necessary meat. The farms should be enlarged and produce more whenever prices get too high. This would make sure they never rise again like they have this year. It would also serve to warn the meat companies not to try to shift the costs of their planning errors onto consumers.

Food is a basic necessity of life. It should not be left to the profit-minded meat businessmen who have shown us how poorly they can manage our affairs. We can begin by calling on the government to permanently get involved in the pricing and production of meat.

Write On Housing Hassles

To the Editors:

I have just about applied for every co-op housing that has gone up in the New Haven area. I have lived in New Haven all my life and have lived in the housing project just about five years of my adult life.

More than once I have been told by my "Black Brothers" in housing that, "just because you put in or fill out an application doesn't mean you are getting in," and "Certain people will have to check your criteria, as to if you can be accepted."

I'm glad Nixon cut the funds and is closing out all the side-walk-bosses because none have done me a damn-bit-of-good.

As a mother of five children and in need of a decent place, I should be able to obtain housing whether it be renovated through certain funds (Housing Now, Community Housing, etc.) that have been brought to the city or through houses that are being built.

It has always been a known fact, that people from elsewhere have gotten the best jobs here, but is it in housing too?

It seems to me you must have just arrived from the South or out of the country in order for New Haven to serve you well. CHECK THIS NEW HAVEN.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Inez Williams

Happy Birthday To Modern Times!

With this issue of **Modern Times** we are very proud to begin our 4th year of publication. We hope in this next year to do an even better job of reporting labor and community news in New Haven. We'd like to take this occasion to thank our readers for their steady support and all the people who have given hundreds of hours of their time to help put this paper out.

The following is a letter which speaks for itself. Letters like these help us feel our efforts are indeed worthwhile.

Dear AIM;

Only a line to express our deep appreciation for your great many services and *the many great articles to boost our moral and to give us the will and courage to go* on with our organizing fight.(We could not call it a campaign , because we had to fight every step of the way.) Without your help we doubt very much that we could have gone on to the victory that we won. As you know, You were the only publication that backed us in any form, whatsoever. So we wish to again thank you on behalf of all the Concerned Hospital Workers. We wish to thank you all who had a a part in our efforts.

With all our Sincere love,
The Concerned Hospital Workers
Yale New Haven Hospital

Brass Tacks Runaway Shops Shaft U.S. Workers

by Mike F. Holodnak

Two multi-national monopolies, General Electric and Westinghouse, are currently being challenged in contract negotiations by 14 AFL-CIO and independent unions.

To bargain effectively with these two rich and powerful giants, the 14 unions, representing 140,000 GE workers and about 60,000 at Westinghouse, have formed the Coordinated Bargaining Committee. The CBC is a "child of necessity," founded by six AFL-CIO unions in 1965 with limited coordination on pension and insurance issues.

In 1969 when GE put its contract terms on a godfather-like "take it or leave it" basis and the Westinghouse offer was a carbon copy of GE's, these unions broadened their base and issues to win, according to union President Charles H. Pillard, "the best contract in history from GE."

The 14 unions participating in these negotiations include the IUE; UE; Teamsters; UAW; IBEW; Plumbers and Pipefitters; Firemen and Oilers: Steelworkers; Allied Industrial Workers; Technical Engineers and Flint Glass Workers.

Runaway Shops

Not only are declining living standards and speed-ups at issue, but rising unemployment caused by runaway shops could become an even greater bone of contention.

The impact of runaway shops on the GE plant here in Bridgeport is obvious. During World War II it employed 15,000 production workers. Today there are only 3,000. Last year it eliminated the fan and heater departments laying off 300 workers. And in the hair dryer department many women have been laid off for brief periods due to "overproduction."

Now GE is planning to move its hair dryer department to Greensboro, North Carolina for even greater profits, and 400 more workers, mostly women with high seniority, will be laid off.

This means less jobs and poorer working conditions for people, more power and higher profits for GE.

Like for instance, GE has more than 70 overseas subsidiaries, and has increased its foreign production facilities from 21 plants in 1959 to 82 plants in 1969.

Why? Because GE can rob even more from the workers overseas. In a Massachusetts plant GE pays $3.50 an hour, for the same work in Singapore GE pays 29 cents an hour.

GE's Foreign Plants

Recent GE foreign ventures include a transister plant in Hong Kong, the timer clock plant in Singapore, and a new plant on the Mexican border. In the future, the company plans to move its production of semiconductors from Buffalo, N.Y. to Ireland, and the remainder of its Ashland, Massachusetts clock radio production to "somewhere in Asia" according to a GE spokesman.

Then, with a straight face, these same GE spokesmen say, If we don't start competing with "those foreigners," every American will lose his or her job. So they push their workers even harder.

Using the money it sweated out of the American workers GE bought stocks in Toshiba, one of Japan's biggest electronics firms, and now owns the largest single block - 223 million shares. It also owns 40 per cent of the subsidiary Electronic Systems Company Ltd., and has 24 licensing agreements with both companies to produce radar, generators,

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MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on **MODERN TIMES** is done dy volunteers, bothe members and non—members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news commercial papres run for profit. There is no place else where the work no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where hunger,,bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of the wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs. waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF:David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Danny Cahn, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Atr Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Pat Sandacatta, Bob Sherry, Dave Spinner, Henry Tamarin, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolf, Karen Wolff

World Affairs

Africa Searches For True Independence

by Steve Miller

The author recently returned from spending two years working in Zaire - the former Belgian Congo.

Although the Republic of Zaire (former Democratic Republic of the Congo) has been independent from its Belgian colonizers since 1960, most Zairians still do not feel in charge of their own society. It is perhaps because of this imposing foreign influence that Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko recently inaugurated a drive for Zairian "authenticity" which has stirred the nation.

The changing of the former Belgian Congo's name to the Republic of Zaire is a primary move in the authenticity campaign. All the old Belgian statues (including one of the famous English explorer Henry Stanley) have been taken down, European street names are now changed to authentic African names and all Zairian citizens must drop any European names they have been using and take on the African names of their ancestors.

Nevertheless, the various American, European and Japanese companies in Zaire do not seem frightened by these changes. Instead, they continue to make large profits in a potentially rich country which welcomes most foreign big business under the terms of a "liberal" investment code.

From 1970 to 1972, I was working with a religious voluntary agency in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital city. During these two years I discovered how closely foreigners from extremely varied occupations work together in a manner which leaves local citizens as outsiders in their own country.

American Control of Zaire Economy

When big American companies move into Zaire, they offer a number of low-level jobs to Zairians but keep most of the managerial positions under their own control. Although some few Zairians may receive prestigious jobs from these companies, most workers remain helpless to make any changes which could improve their own working situation. Not only are their bosses from a different economic class; even worse, they are from a foreign country which still acts like it owns the place.

When it comes to the American government's efforts in Zaire, again all but a few hand-picked Zairians are left in the dark. While our American tax dollars pour into the country to support a massive aid effort, most of this money aims at building up the relatively small middle class who are already rich in comparison to the unemployed and to the underpaid working class. For example, U.S. AID has supported local administrative colleges which teach the country's elite how to manage and direct workers in the American style.

AID's agricultural credit programs have clearly excluded low-income farmers who need the lelp most. Also, AID's give-away program of American foodstuffs tends to further discourage the farmer by driving away his market and at the same time, creating a market for American rather than Zairian goods. Programs such as these can only encourage Zairians farmers to abandon their local villages with their traditional values of self-esteem in order to seek work on a large plantation or, worse yet, in the big cities which are already bursting with unemployment.

In recent years, AID has even been responsible for the training and equipping of a special police unit (which has now been integrated into the army). All

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Register: Richer And Duller

continued from page 1

and steel industry, he also was a bank director, on the board of the gas-light and water company and several manufacturing concerns as well as owning interest in other New Haven newspapers. One city resident wrote admiringly in 1887, "Thre was hardly an enterprise started in New Haven...that Mr. Carrington was not asked to assist with his money and advice."

When Carrington died the paper's management passed to his two sons, John B. Junior and Edward. Edward Carrington dies soon after but John B. Junior continued the family tradition of investing in the more prominent business projects of the city. In 1898 the Carrington Publishing Company absorbed another New Haven daily, the **Morning News** founded in 1882 and in 1911 a third, the **New Haven Palladium**, whose publication dated from 1829. By then, however, the close connections with the ***New Haven Register*** had already begun.

The **Register**, called the **Columbian Register** at its beginning, was founded in 1812 and became a daily paper in 1842. Its owner from 1834 to 1877 was Minott A. Osborn, nephew of the founder, who began life as the son of a merchant tailor and was a Jacksonian Democrat politically. He also served as director of a bank and several utility companies and in numerous important civic positions like collector of the port of New Haven and member of the railroad and road commission.

Upon Minott's death in 1877 his son Colonel Norris G. Osborn took charge of the **Register**. Soon after John Day Jackson of New Haven legend makes his appearance.

J.D. Jackson, A Yale Man

John Day Jackson graduated from Yale in 1890—where he had been chairman of the **Yale Daily News**—and did some traveling, studying, and journalism work until 1895 when he returned to New Haven to become a manager of the **Register**. Liking the paper, he and a college friend bought it from Col. Osborn the next year. Osborn remained as editor until 1906 when he bought a half-interest in the **Journal-Courier** from the Carrington family. At that time Osborn, the former **Register** editor, switched over to editor of the **Journal-Courier** and his former employer, John Day Jackson, assumed editorial control of the **Register**. Shortly thereafter the **Register** which had held a more or less independent political line became more pronouncedly a Republican paper.

Despite the loss of two papers between 1898 and 1911 (through absorption by the Carringtons) New Haven still had four daily newspapers in the 1920's. But hard times were in the offing. In 1925 the Troup family paper, the **New Haven Union**, joined with the **Times-Leader** to form the **Times-Union**. That same year John Day Jackson purchased the **Journal-Courier** from the Carringtons.

In 1927 the **Times-Union** folded and New Haven was left with pretty much its present situation. That is—a town with two daily newspapers both owned by the same man, both Republican papers, etched with the convictions of the owner John Day Jackson. He was described by one scholar as "a devout conservative who steadfastly opposed practically all public policies enacted under reform administrations" from President Wilson's time on. (He died in 1961).

Property Assessed at Near Million

Jackson owned property in New Haven assessed at three-quarters of a million dollars. The newspapers themselves—with a monopoly on local advertising as well as news—are extremely profitable. Not surprisingly, as one of the largest individual property holders in the city, he was especially opposed to any suggestion that might raise taxes. Jackson's two sons, Richard and Lionel, succeeded to his legacy. Supported by one or two editors who have served the family press for decades they continue in his conservative vein.

James Mann, a former reporter for the **Journal-Courier**, analyzed some of the effects of the Jackson newspaper monopoly on New Haven. "Local journalism is dying," he wrote in 1969, "while local newspapers thrive...To a newspaper which has already monopolized the local market, in-depth reporting and investigating work are at best a luxury and at worst a liability which might anger and lose readership."

MAY DAY

On May 1, workers all over the world will demonstrate to show the strength that labor can have. May Day is originally an American Holiday and the world wide demonstrations continue the tradition begun here in 1886 when there was a one day strike demanding the eight hour day.

After frustrating attempts to get the law to legislate the eight hour day, working people turned to the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions to begin the demand for the shorter working day—through strikes if necessary.

On May 1, 1886, thousands of workers went on a one day strike . In different places, such as Chicago, employers had the cooperation of police, Pinkertons and the National Guard to meet the demonstrators.

Police reaction was violent, such as that at the McCormick Harvester plant, where four workers were killed and many were wounded.

Employers, with the help of anti-labor laws launched a militant anti-labor movement, but it was met by growing labor organizations, and slowly these unions and organizations won gains.

Many now have an eight hour work day, many still need to win it, and the fight for a decent life and basic justice still goes on.

Workers Face GE

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lamps and boilers - many of which are then sold under the GE label.

Then there's Westinghouse which began finagling its way into another electronics firm, Mitsubishi, in 1923. According to the Directory of Foreign Establishments in Japan Westinghouse is now a "principal" shareholder in Mitsubishi.

The collusion goes even further. Since 1950, U.S. corporations have sold over 6,000 patents to Japanese firms. In addition to this, they have foreign licensing agreements which involve the transfer of technology to the licensee. From these deals alone, in 1969, U.S. corporations made $125 billion which is as profitable as exporting jobs.

People's Taxes Subsidize Corporations

Even more important is the fact that most of the electronics research and development which corporations sell to their "competitors" was subsidized by taxes paid by the American people. In 1966, according to Business Week, 90 per cent or $2 billion spent by the electronics industry on research and development came from the federal government.

Consequently workers, who are already being short-changed by corporations, are being taxed to the hilt to subsidize rich corporations so that these same corporations can turn around and give their workers an even greater screwing.

At a recent UE convention a delegate, Mary McDaniel, explained, "...everything they've (GE) tried to cram down our throats to make us give up what we've already won, has been based on the threat of the runaway shop." She further added, "If they ever decide to move out, we'll help them. We'll tear that plant down brick by brick and sink it in the harbor."

Apparently runaway shops will be a factor in this year's negotiations, not only for GE and Westinghouse workers, but also for all workers, consumers and taxpayers who are victims of the biggest, unprecedented swindle in history.

Pablo Picasso

Pablo Picasso, 1882 – 1973

A genius in the arts, a revolutionist in creating new forms of expression, Pablo Picasso had the courage to portray a vision of humanity in both a political and personal sense. You could say he put a dialectic on canvas and in doing so, people and things are viewed not as "right" or "wrong", but in the context of a situation, of a mood, of an emotion. He showed us aspects of ourselves in in the real world, with all the complexities of people in the real world. Art for Picasso was not a museum piece to be observed but a reflection of ourselves. And Picasso went about his work, his art, with an exhausting but enlivening enthusiasm. His life was an era in humanity. With the deepest respect, Modern Times wishes to pay tribute to Pablo Picasso.

'Guernica,' Picasso's monumental political work, was inspired by the mercenary bombing of a Basque town during the Spanish Civil War.

'Flowers' Wilting Fast At Rudy's Bar

by John Flannelly

Rudy's, a small speedy bar on the corner of Howe and Elm has long had the reputation of being one of those rare places, a place that attracts everyone; its cheap, unpretentious and totally without charm, interesting because unlike other places there is nothing about it which suggests prosperity. Its one unique feature is its grotesque 1940ish mural of a woman's face set amid Egyptian pyramids.

For a while Rudy's was thought to represent the wave of the future, a meeting ground for the disparate classes of the city, a leveller of rank and privilege. It was here that the smart young men from Yale, imbued with a faith in social equality, came to mix with street people, derelicts, blacks and workers; it was here that one could hear questions of politics hotly debated, voices of militant anger edged with a thirst for action; it was here that the energies of the sixties found yet another medium of expression.

But all of that has changed now! The same types of people come, but they come in a different spirit, the spirit of resignation and apathy: not too many patrons at Rudy's talk about politics anymore. For some the silence harbors a sense of futility, for others it signifies their indifference.

The People have Changed

The students from Yale are now into bladder ball, drinkmanship, the revitalization of the dead hand of the past, the nineteen-fifties and all that, and, of course, those good old standbys: arrogance, smugness and an absolute belief in their own importance. Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam are words which arouse little emotion, if any, for most; the chicaneries of Nixon, his self-righteousness, his racism, his contempt are the stuff of a good joke: he's corny, and corniness is in, a cult of the amusing beyond good and evil.

The street people are no longer experimenting, no longer searching out alternatives, it's all been done, by others to be sure, but it's all been done. Their style in the upshot has come down to another mode of conformity: consumerism in the guise of rags, selfish individualism in the jargon of the hip. And the derelicts, naturally, are as they were, without hope. Only the blacks and workers seem to be aware, for their experience is too long, their lesson too hard to forget!

Perhaps it is that the present disposition of Rudy's holds no more meaning than the simple fact that people come and go, but it seems to me that behind it all is a mood, a mood disturbing in its implications, a mood that needs no defining because we all know it too well. Where have all the flowers gone? You can bet that they haven't gone to Rudy's!

Nick Heyer

Generations float away the gap at Rudy's.

Zaire's Struggles

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these programs serve to keep the large majority of Zairian citizens in the same place they were before independence. And, of course, the American AID administrators continue to live in their luxury homes (payed for by our taxes) far from the Zairians they have been sent to aid.

Zairians Want More Control

Even private voluntary and church organizations only regretfully integrate local personnel into the administration of their relief and development networks. Many missionaries would rather continue their paternalistic distributions of free food and clothing so that Zairians will remain dependent as they have been in the past. These missionaires perhaps fear the day when Zairians will stand on their own feet and refuse "aid" which they find degrading.

One night I was drinking with a friend in a section of town that had been strictly reserved for Belgians and foreigners in the days before independence. My Zairian friend pointed out that in those days he would not even have been permitted to be on the streets at this hour of night. When I remember our conversation and realize how the President's drive for authenticity seeks to reestablish a pride in Zairian culture and values, I see that positive steps have been taken in twelve years of independence.

However, the average Zairian worker wants more than new names: he wants a new control over the large part of his life which remains in foreign hands.

Edward St. School Becomes Fun Palace In The Afternoon

by After-School Program Committee
Edwards Street School

Every Wednesday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4, Edwards Street School turns into a combination of fun palace and laboratory. That's when the school, located at Edwards and Foster Streets, runs its volunteer after-school program for children in grades one through six.

For the kids (about 100 of an eligible enrollment of roughly 150) it really is a time of fun. Room doors are wide open. A record player in the corridor attracts little clumps, who may dance to the music for a few minutes before dashing back to their baking meatloaf or leather jacket under construction. A professional-looking group of three or four 11 year-olds records on videotape interviews with children in other activities. A parent wields large bottles of juice and bags of cookies, providing snacks for everyone.

Sharing Skills

For the adults, it's a laboratory in which to learn how to share with kids some of our own skills, what can and can't be done in a short period, and how to marshall the energy, ingenuity, openness and money necessary to make the program worthwhile.

The project, initiated by the Edwards Street School-Community Council, has been sorely needed. The neighborhood itself has few services--there is no public-library branch, no community house, not even a vacant lot.

Since the school also includes children from the Cedarhill area, the project was aborted in past years by our inability to provide a late bus. When Bob Zaorski, the school's new principal, indicated his willingness to arrange for such a bus, the parents were put on the spot: now we could have our program, but were we willing and able to set it up?

Needed Money and Coordinator

Several parents immediately volunteered to run activities; but we still had no idea how to go about establishing a sensible structure. We met at the Teacher Center with representatives from other schools and learned that a full-time program takes a lot of money and that the success of any program depends on a strong and dedicated coordinator.

Two of our parents, Elizabeth Campbell and Liz Parsell, volunteered to serve as unpaid co-coordinators. The Edwards Street School PTFO voted to release $150 for a six-week pilot program, to meet once a week. Jack Chasin, the school administration's Director of Community Services, offered to cover the costs of materials within reason.

The kinds of activities initially offered grew out of our resources. Because the school has stoves and other kitchen equipment, it was decided to run a cooking and baking program; volunteers for this activity are three mothers, one father, and one grandmother.

Because the schools have no art teachers, and because of Ms. Parsell's own skills, an arts-and-crafts program was set up.

Leatherwork and Video

The most serious activity is the leatherworking group, run by David Parsell, a professional designer and craftsman. In this group the children are making vests, belts, and the like. Like all the other groups, it is about evenly split between boys and girls.

The glamour activity is a short course in videotape for 12 of the oldest students, run by Ted Clark. There are also occasional other activities including chess, basketball and swimming at Conte school. We need a dancer or gymnast to run a body-movement group -- an activity the children want. We would like to have a photography course. Maybe start a magazine? We'd like to do it two or three days a week and go on until 5 o'clock. We have talked about opening the program to other children from the neighborhood.

We still need money. Most of all, we need more volunteers. Anyone, age 13 to 70, who wants to spend a couple of hard-working but enjoyable hours with a group of very likable children is more than welcome. Call Liz Parsell at 776-6672.

Dave Spinner

Decorating various containers holds their attention.

Students Fight For PIRG

by Diane Hoffman, Mary Mushinsky
students, Southern Conn. State College

In December, 1972, Ralph Nader held a press conference in New Haven for all Connecticut college and university press editors and interested students to inform them of a new vehicle for student involvement--Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (Conn. PIRG).

He described a new idea that is already a reality in 14 states: when students join together and hire their own staff of dedicated professionals the combination can be an effective force for change.

Today, more than four months later, S.C.S.C. students are striving to make PIRG a reality on campus. (UConn, C.C.S.C., Wesleyan, St. Joseph's, Annhurst and Trinity College are already a part of ConnPIRG).

Goals and Organization

PIRG's goal is two-fold: I. To get students involved in the community by doing thorough research on issues chosen by themselves. All information is then disseminated to the public. Testifying, litigation when necessary, and lobbying may follow. 2. To establish courses on campus that give credit for this work. In this way a large degree of direct involvement by students can be assured. Action in the public interest, based on student research, is PIRG's obligation.

Two phases are involved in establishing PIRG on a campus. Education of the student body is followed by a petition campaign. In order for PIRG to be established 51% of the student body must indicate their willingness to accept an addition of $2 to their tuition bill. If the majority sign, the petition is submitted to the Board of Trustees, and, if approved, the fee is added to the bill. It is subject to refusal by the minority that doesn't wish to support PIRG. If PIRG's support falls below 51% the organization dissolves itself at that campus.

The funds from all schools will be pooled to hire several lawyers, researchers, lobbyists, etc.

This funding arrangement is vital because 1. PIRG must be financially independent to stay above outside vested interests; 2. The large-scale goals of PIRG would not be possible if funding relied upon cake sales and car washes; 3. No one college could hire an adequate staff. Many schools, united, can do so and in their unity achieve greater influence in Hartford.

What PIRG Can Do

Some of the possible areas of research and action include:--a study of Connecticut's mental health system; investigation of reconversion possibilities from war to peace-time production in the State; health insurance--who and what is covered, costs, policies; environmental impact studies of power plant siting, highway construction; discrimination, urban renewal, penal reform, drug treatment programs; taxes--input, investigation, comparative studies and legislative action.

PIRG Fights On

PIRG, to many, is a step toward relevance on the college campus, yet at S.C.S.C. its establishment has been hindered by a few conservative students and traditional administration policies. The anti-PIRG rumor mills at Southern are run by the right-wing "Young Americans for Freedom" and their affiliates, many of whom belong to Student Government. Many of the roadblocks to an efficient PIRG campaign arise from Students to Organize ConnPIRG's unrecognized status--but this non-status is the direct result of four weeks of Student Government inaction on the group's constitution.

Opposition is based on alleged "coercive" funding. PIRG's S.C.S.C. volunteers, however, feel that the student-initiated optional tax is the fairest method that can be used to realistically achieve the goal of action-oriented education.

Despite the restrictions at Southern, Students to Organize ConnPIRG intend to carry on the campaign. They believe that S.C.S.C. students should be allowed to express their own opinion on a proposal that may well change the scope of higher education in Connecticut to an extent never dreamed possible.

Citizens Speak About Drug Prices At Annex Meeting

continued from page 2

is chairman of the Senate Committee on Correctional, Welfare and Human Institutions.

During the discussion of the advertisement of drug prices, the majority of consumers present indicated they were greatly in favor because they had been confronted by price differentials of over 200%. They felt that if prices were advertised it would make them more uniform.

Drug Prices

Others claimed that only the big retailers would benefit because they would be able to buy large lots and consequently drive the prices down for the products they carried so that the neighborhood pharmacy would suffer. It was suggested that because so many of the drugs bought today are purchases by old people who are not very mobile, the neighborhood pharmacy would not be hurt.

Perhaps the only definite conclusion that could be drawn from that discussion is that not enough is known of the drug industry. Many problems seem to arise not with the retailer but with the manufacturer and the doctors who prescribe the medications.

Pete Seeger in New Haven

Vittorio Comisso

On May 2nd, Pete Seeger will hold a concert at Woolsey Hall at 8p.m. Proceeds from the event will go towards the rebuilding of Bach Mai Hospital which was destroyed by U.S. bombs.

On The Job Olin Worker Adjusts To Tough Job

By Frank Smith
Olin Worker

I'm an adjustor at Olin, that is, I repair a certain type of machinery known as drilling machines. These machines drill shotgun barrels. I used to be a driller. It's a much more interesting job being an adjustor, a little more complicated.

They trained me on the job. It took 6 or 8 months to get the basics. That was 16 years ago. I would like a much better job – I'm not complacent ever. Occasionally there are openings, but the good jobs go according to seniority. The most senior employee in the department has preference. There are others who have much more than 25 or 26 years.

I could have had an interesting job at another factory where I worked for a few weeks during the Olin strike in 1969. But when the strike was over I went back to Olin. I took into consideration my seniority and the money I was making. I probably could have made much better money at the other place after a few years, but then I was the lowest man on the totem pole.

Nick Heyer

Frank Smith demonstrates some of the problems which he encounters on the job at Olin.

Busy on the Night Shift

I work the second shift, 3 to 11. Working nights you miss everything. When you're out here, everyone is working. I would much prefer working days.

First thing I do when I get to work is change my clothes. Then I go up on the job and look to see which machines are running and which are not. And if they're not, I check to find out why. If I see what's wrong I proceed to fix them.

I work hard trying to keep those machines running. I'll try to give you a picture. Sometimes you run into a situation where you're drilling a barrel and it doesn't come out dead center. Sometimes the barrel is 20 or 25 inches long. I have to find out why the drill is going a little to the side. It can be a problem, figuring just what's causing that. You put all your new equipment in there and everything is supposed to be perfect, right? But it still comes out on the side.

There's a real mental strain cause there are more than just those machines that I'm involved with. I also have to keep the filters working. The filters sift the chips out of the cutting oil and we reuse it over and over again. Everything can go wrong with a filter – a coupling can break, you get oil spillage on the floor. I also have oil pumps that I have to watch, huge Worthington pumps. I'm the only one in my department who is responsible for the machines. Two other guys work in the department as drillers.

If Things Were Different

I try to be efficient on my job. I'm busy all the time – there's always something to do. The job is all right, but really it is just an everyday routine, a way of making a living.

If I could choose anything, I would really like to be a politician – a good, honest one. At least I would try. I've never been involved in local politics. I guess I've been too involved in trying to bring up my family.

I know that once you go on the job, you're supposed to be there for 8 hours. I would like to be able, if I wanted – once I get everything running smoothly – to walk outside, eat a sandwich, or walk to the store or mail a letter. Just breathe the air for maybe half an hour.

Safety Improving

Over the 26 years I've been at Olin conditions have been constantly getting better for employees. Safety is a lot better than it was. Automation has made a big change. Of course, there are a lot fewer employees– automation saw to that. The numbers have been cut almost in half. At one time there were over 3,000. Now its about 1,700. But prodiction has gone up.

Union membership is compulsory – it's a closed shop. But having the union has made a difference. For example, if an employee has a legitimate complaint he or she can go to any union representative and get some consideration. I think the response is excellent. Of course, there's always room for improvement.

The union works hand in hand with management on job safety. I'm working with the factory safety group. I go around looking for things that I think are going to be hazardous. If I see something, I report it and I also tell the employees to look for things that might cause someone to get hurt and try to get it corrected before that happens.

Dirty Air

Fumes cause one of the major problems. They have put in electronic air cleaners in my department, 7 or 8 of them. They're good – it's a hell of a lot better than it used to be. There used to be a time prior to the installation of the air cleaners 12 – 13 years ago when you couldn't see another employee maybe 15 or 20 feet away.

One final word – I've been continually employed since I've been at Olin. I was never unfortunate enough to get laid off, excluding the time we were on strike, but you couldn't consider that being laid off. I don't think I've been sent home because of lack of work. So I'm one of the fortunate ones – a lot of other employees haven't been as fortunate.

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PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

FEDERAL HIGHWAY/MASS TRANSIT BILLS

The U.S. Seante gave final approval to the three year, $18 billion 1973 Federal Aid Highway Act on March 15. It included the Muskie/Baker Amendment granting cities and states the option to use $850 million a year, allocated to urban highways, for rapid rail transit and for the purchase of buses.

This amount is peanuts compared to the amount proposed by the Kennedy Weicker amendment which would have allocated $2.3 billion per year, over 40% of the total for mass transit. The bill passed by the Senate now has to go to the House for approval. Voters in this area can call Congressman Robert Giaimo's office here or write him in Washington to support or strengthen the mass transit provisions of the bill.

NEWHALLVILLE CITIZENS PROTEST SCHOOL IN PARK

Members of the "Newhallville Committee to Save Dorman Field" and the Citizens Park Council will act in a court suit against the City of New Haven to block construction of a new Newhallville shhool in Dorman field (close to Southern Connecticut State College). They feel that the city has no right to use parkland for development while alternate sites are available.

The alternate site proposed is the Acme Chrome site plus the Sealtest site providing eight acres, including an area suitable to recreation. One drawback of the proposed alternate is that it would require the taking of six homes. On the other hand the closing of a neighborhing street would make it a more residential area.

Some people living in the neighborhood consider the Dorman site best because it provides open space, would have no delays in acquisition and would not require the relocation of any families. However, the people within the community opposing the site feel that the loss of heavily used park would be detrimental to the community.

The use of Dorman Field for a school would add one more site to the long list of parks which have been used for other purposes: Bayview Park (Conn. Turnpike), Waterside (gone), College Woods (Cross High School), Blake Field (I-91 highway), Beaver Pond (Hillhouse High School, Police Academy, Animal Shelter, SCSC campus). Unfortunately, the housing shortage in the community creates understandable opposition to the alternate Acme Chrome site where six houses would be taken, and puts another city park closer to the chopping block.

The housing shortage, created by unrepresentative government policies, is in this case creating an opposition between legitimate housing and recreational needs and putting the people of Newhallville into the squeeze.